Rescue Pup

A special dog,
a big adventure,
a happy ending!

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Illustrations by
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Read!
Write!
Rescue!

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Disclaimer:
Children, please do not approach a stray or wild animal.
Tell an adult or contact an authority who can help.
Remember, safety first!

In Memory of Megan's Grandpa

On the far edge of town
in the thick of the woods
curved a long winding road
where a tiny house stood.

All alone in that house
sat a pup who was sad.
There was no one to play with
no friends to be had.

While he waited and watched

for the door to unlock,

it grew dark in the house . . .

Then he heard a loud

knock!

There was no one outside,
just the wicked old winds
that ripped through the trees
and tore down the limbs!

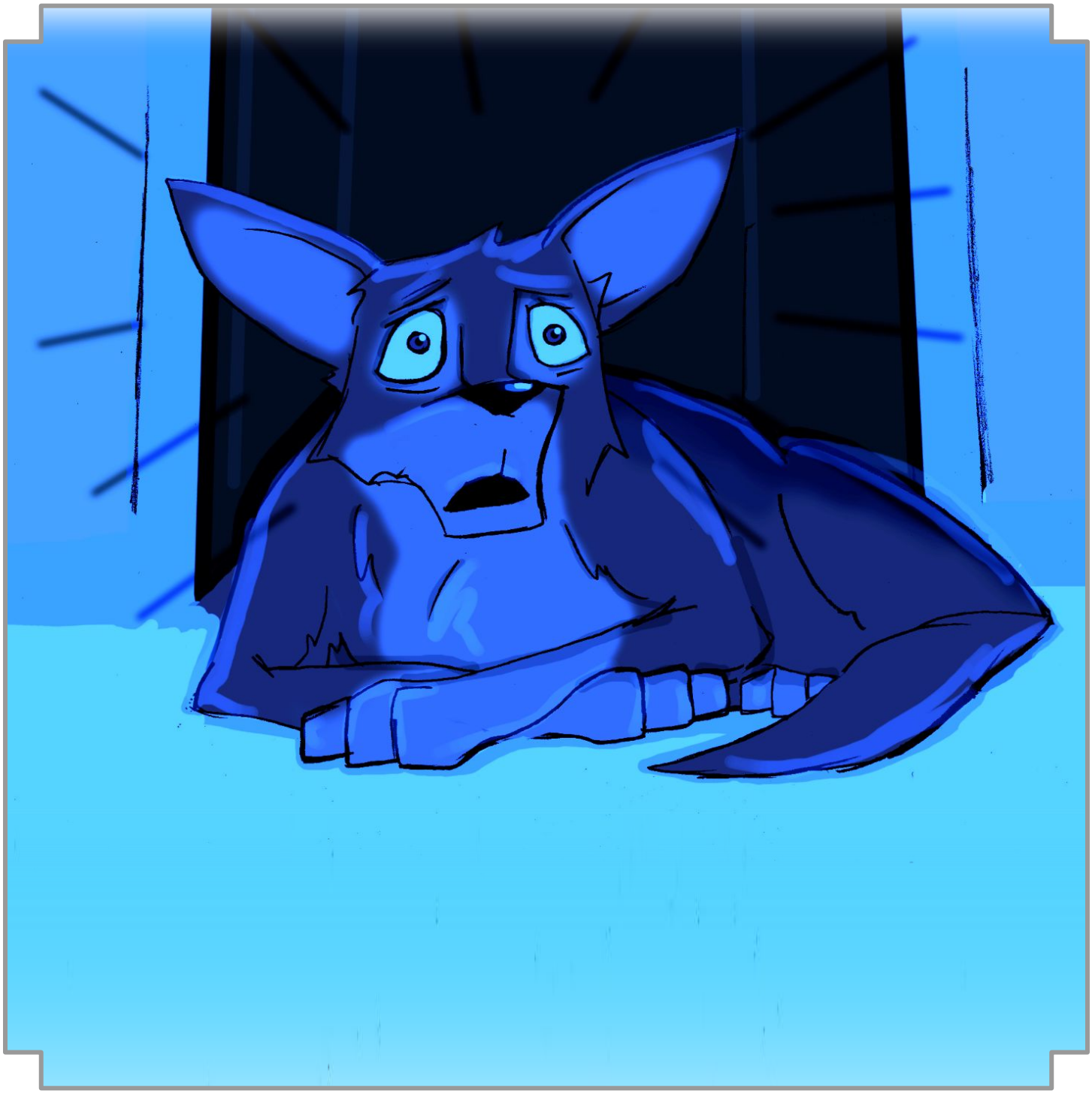
As dark gloomy clouds

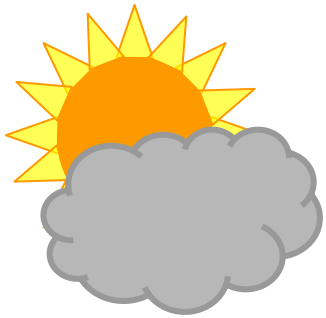
blew over the moon,

lightning bolts flashed and thunder

ka-BOOMED!

The little dog dashed
up the stairs, down the hall,
and he shook all night long
from the sounds of the squall.

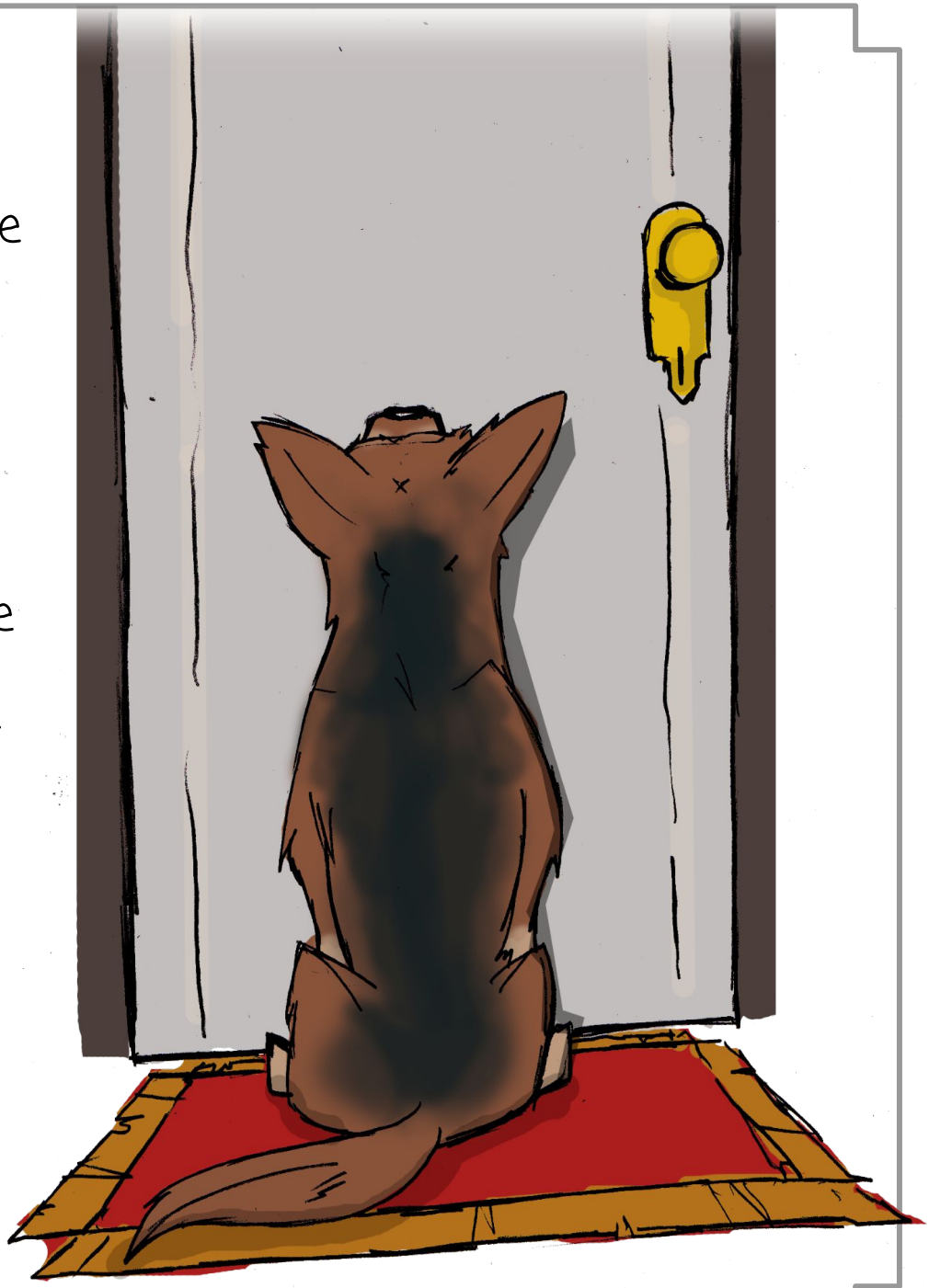


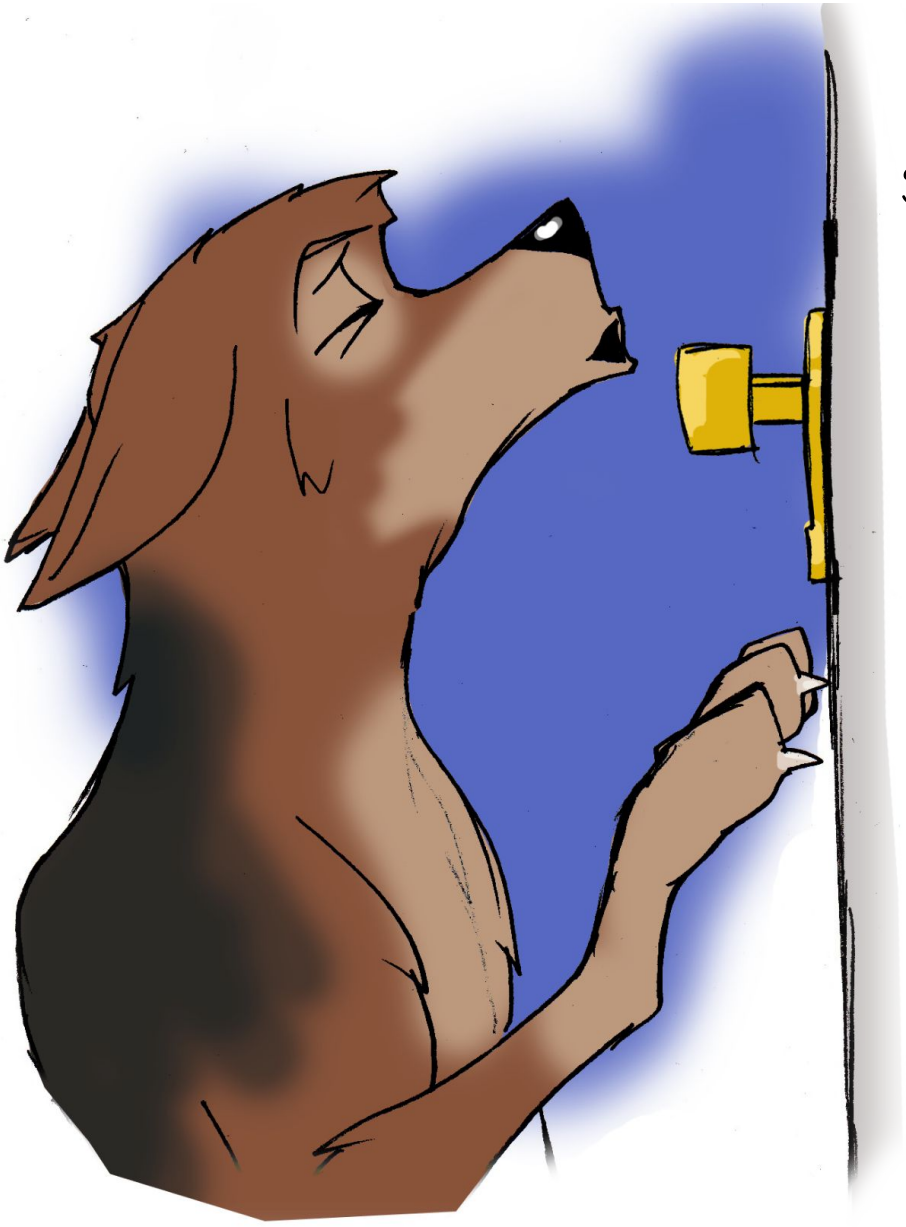


By morning the storm
was over and done.
The rain cleared up
and out came the sun.

The puppy was hungry.
He looked all around
for water and food.
There was none
to be found.

Soon day became night and then daytime once more, but no one came home to unlock the front door.

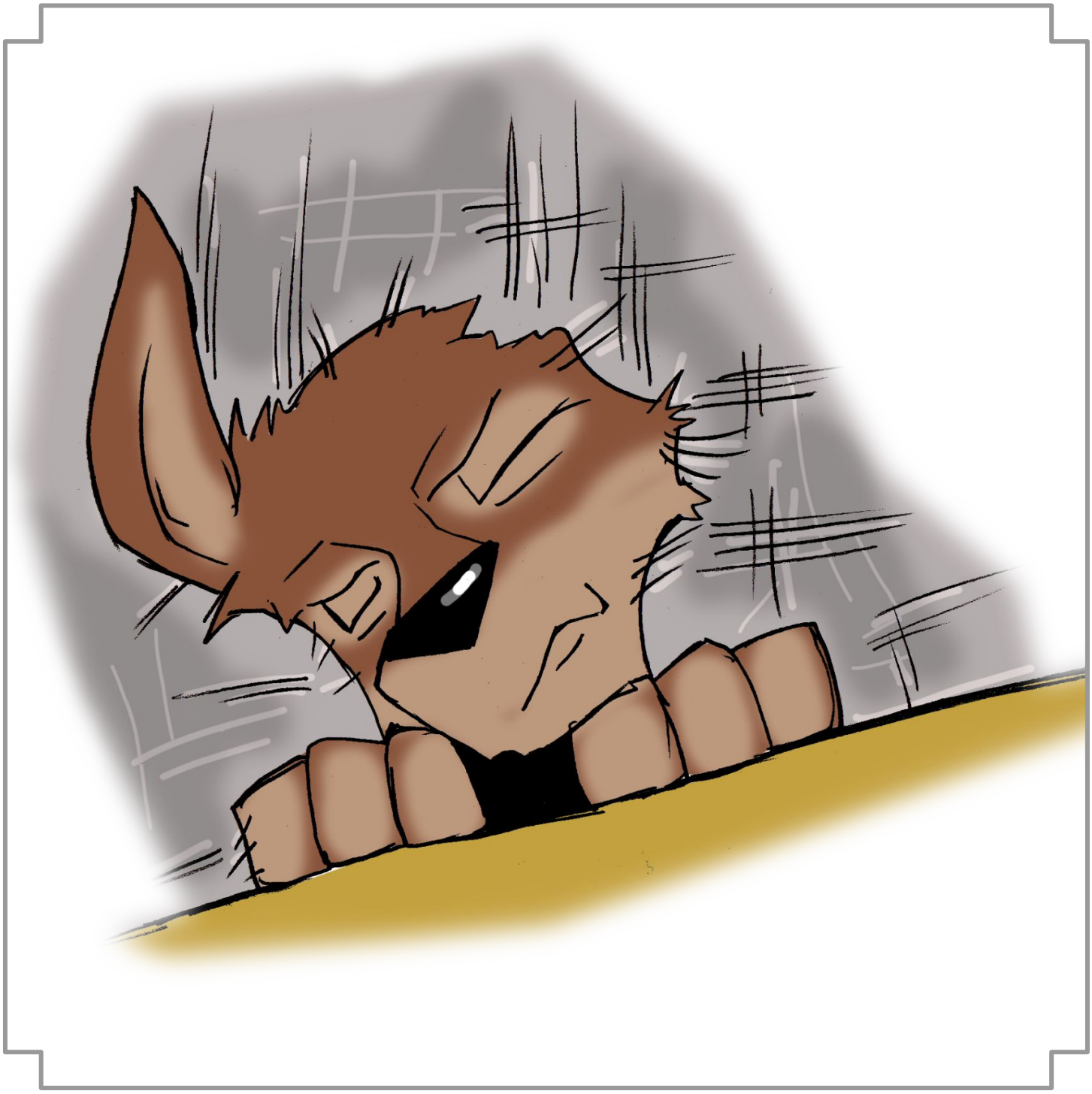




So he howled and
he whimpered in
terrible fear that
no one would
rescue him –
no one would
hear!

This poor lonesome pup
couldn't wait any more,
so he clawed at the windows
and pawed on the doors.

He pushed on a screen,
scratched a hole 'til it grew.
Then he twisted and shoved
and squeezed his way through.



He was free now at last
as he crept very slow
through the woods and the darkness
not sure where to go.

Coming out of the trees,
he found danger too soon.
He was chased down the path
by a mean old raccoon.

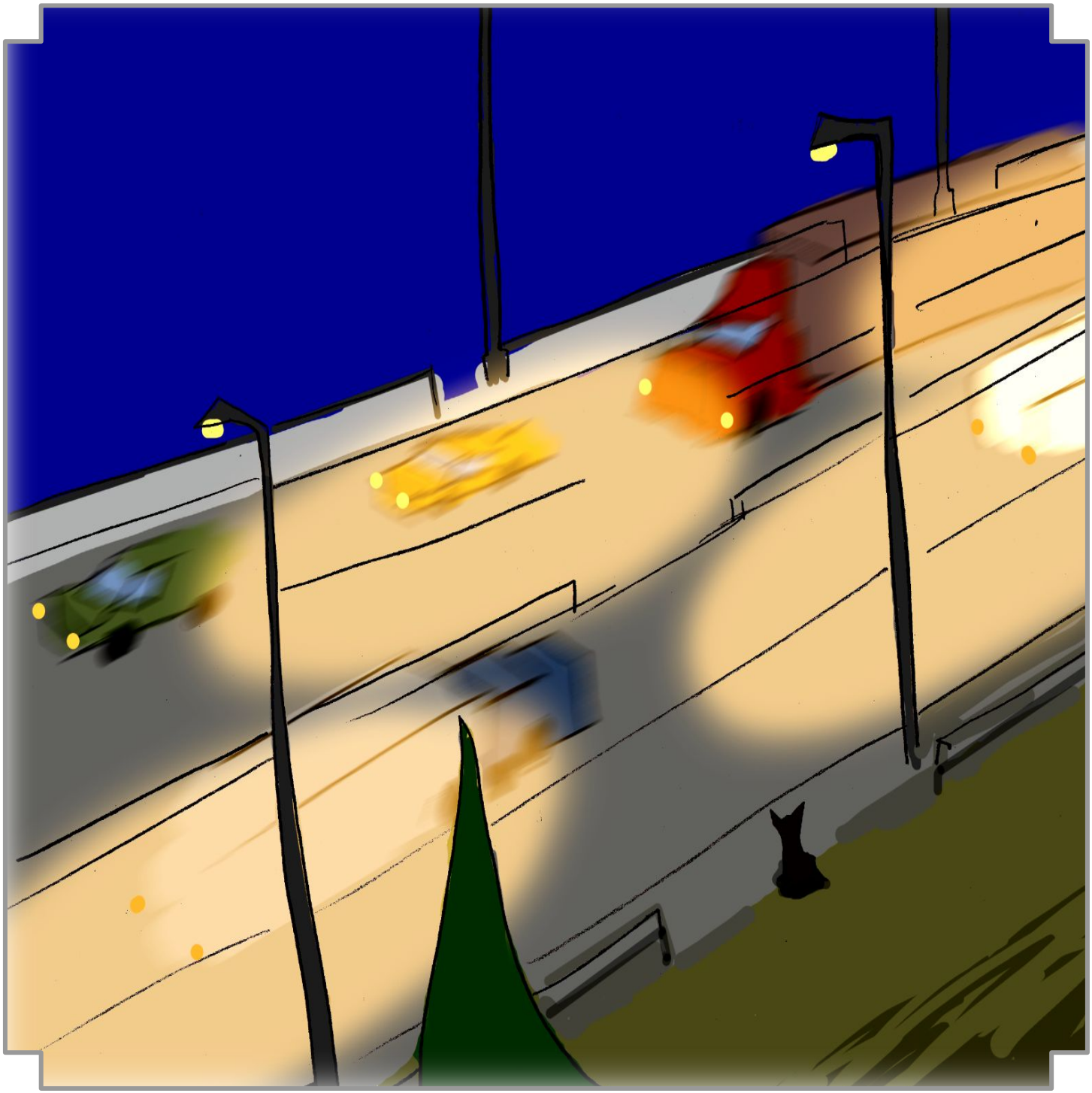
As he ran through a field,
there were sharp prickly burrs
that stuck to his toes,
and his legs, and his fur.

He was hurt once again on his way into town

when he stepped on some glass

all scattered around.

He kept looking for someone,
a friend who might care,
but instead he heard "*Scram!*"
So he ran far from there.



Then he faced the worst danger
of all on that night –
A highway! Fast cars!
Headlights blinding his sight!

He stopped. Then he turned.
When he started to go,
a car blared its horn,
tires ***screeched***, and –
OH, NO

The car quickly stopped;
someone opened the door.
The pup froze! Could he possibly take anymore?

Then a lady stepped out.

"Little Buddy!" she cried.

"Are you lost? Are you hurt?

Let me get you inside!"

He was glad to be rescued
and happy to find
a friend who could help him –
someone who was kind.

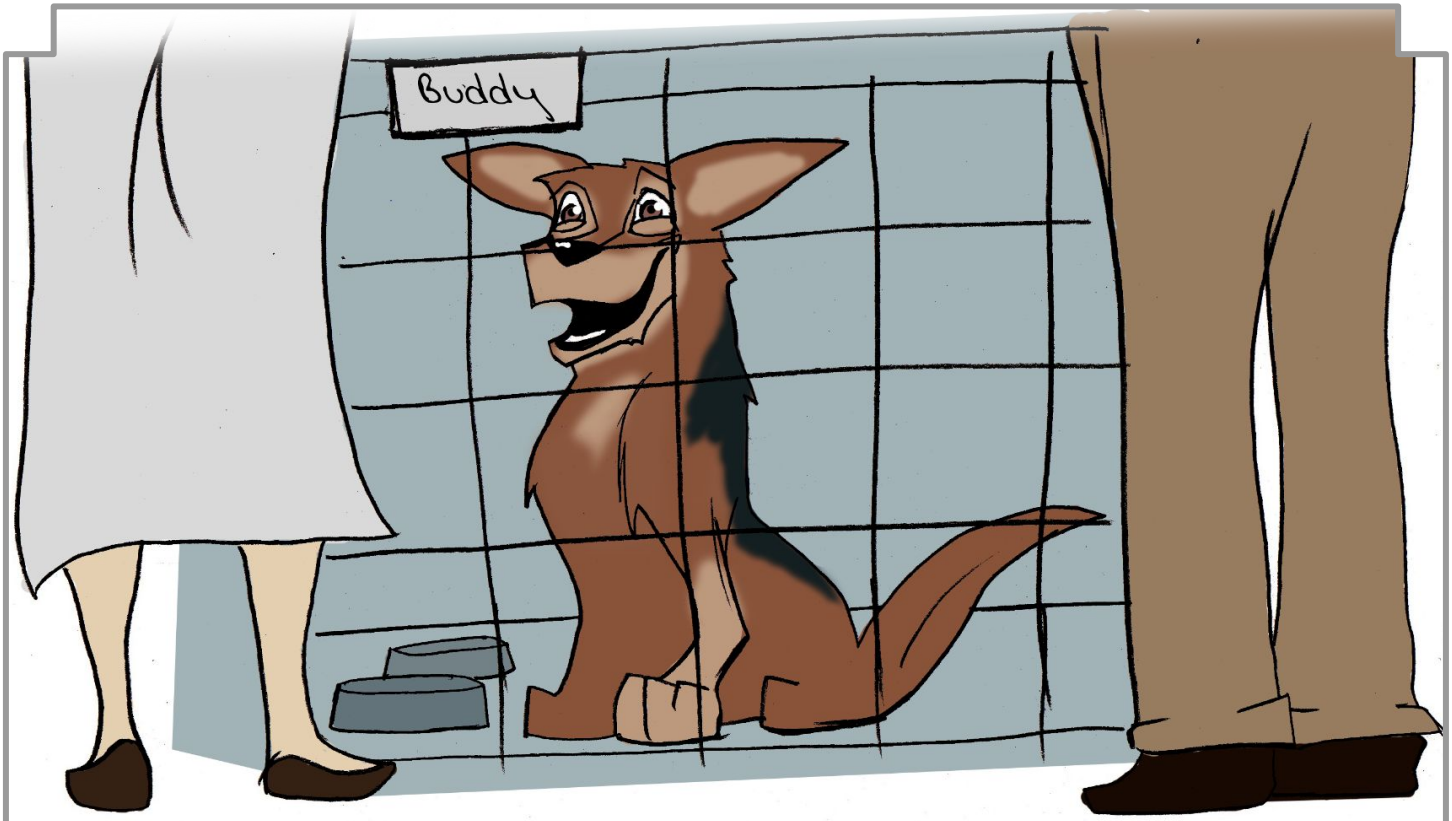
The little pup loved his first ride in a car

'til the lady said, *"Buddy, get up! Here we are!"*

He followed her into a pet rescue place

where he ate, and he slept

in his own little space.



Many days passed him by.

Many strangers did, too.

Would he find a new home?

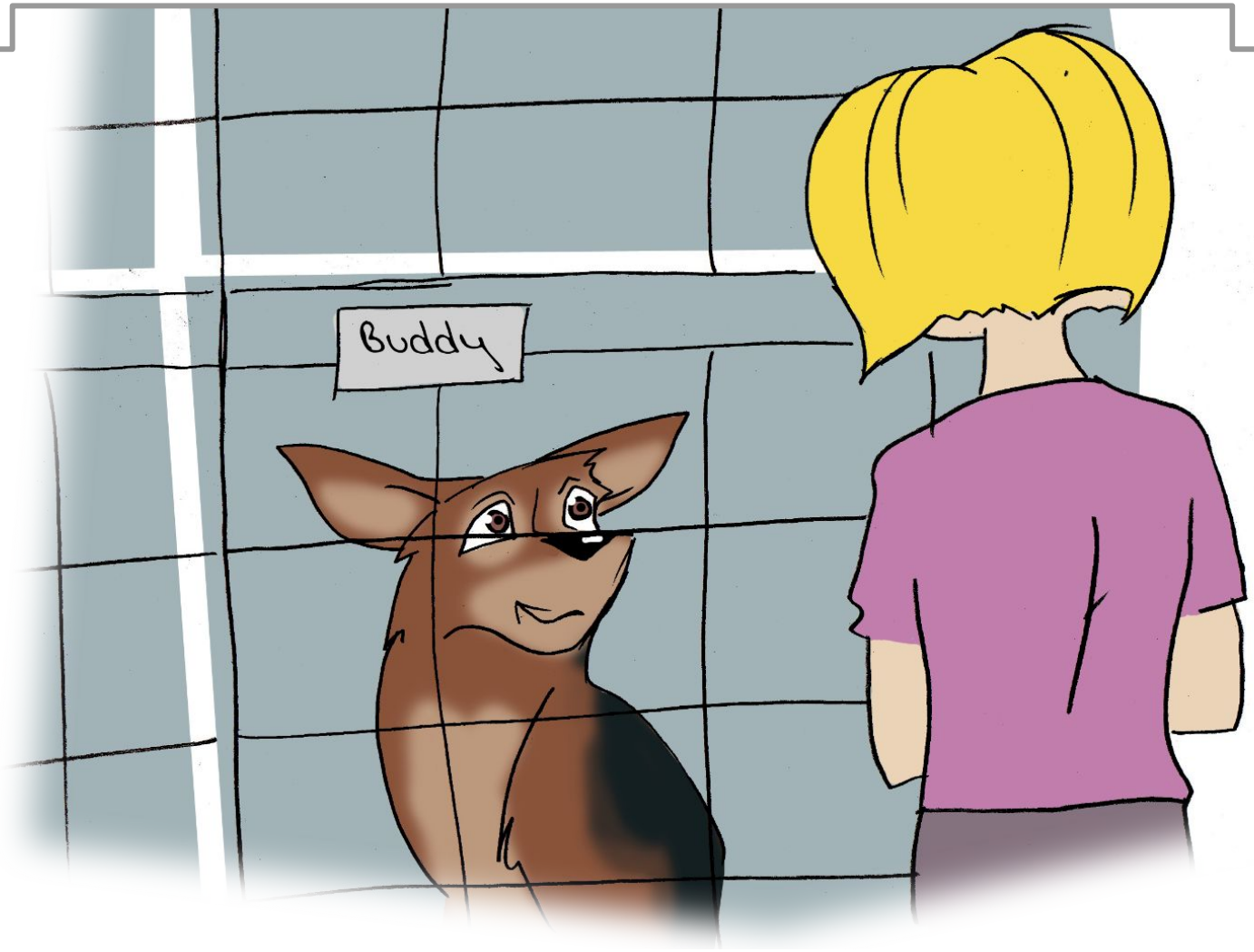
Would it ever come true?

Then Meg came to visit the shelter one day,

and she noticed this pup

in his cage right away.

"Hello, Buddy!" she said
with a big shining smile.
"I've wanted a dog
for a very long while!"



As he looked up at Meg with his eyes gleaming bright,

Buddy thought to himself,

"She's the one. She's just right!"

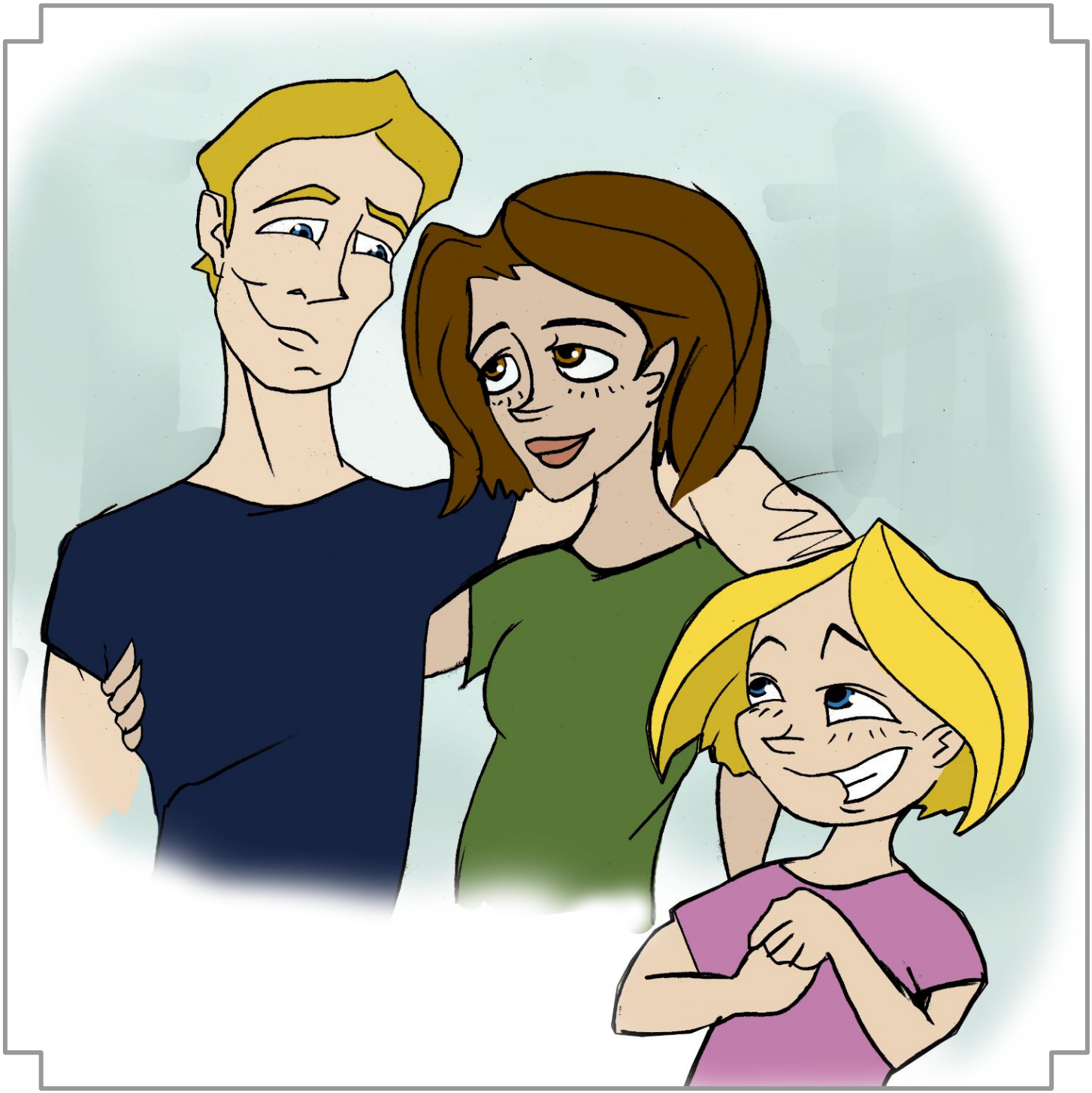
When she opened the cage, he jumped into her arms.

Buddy gave her a lick,

and he poured on the charm!

"Oh, please! Mom and Dad,
can we take Buddy home?
He's the one. He is special!
I'll make him my own."

They said, "Meg, you must promise
before we agree
that you'll take care of Buddy
quite seriously."



"I promise!

I'll feed him and walk him each day.

I'll teach him to sit and to come and to stay!"

"I'll talk to him, pet him,
and love him. You'll see!
I'll be there for him,
and he'll be there for me."

So Buddy went home
with his new special friend
delighted that life
turned out fine in . . .
THE END!

Name some of the dangers that Buddy faced:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Name some of the emotions that Buddy felt:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Name some of the ways that Meg will be a responsible guardian:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Be Kind Pledge

Read!
Write!
Rescue!

I, _____ promise to be kind to people, animals, and the environment.

Sign your name, draw a picture of your favorite animal, and color the hearts and title.

Animal Shelters

Every year millions of animals are abandoned for various reasons and find their way to animal shelters where they await a second chance for a new home. There are many lovable and loyal dogs and cats looking for a family who can return the same kindness. Consider opening your heart and home to a rescue pet.

Learn More

1. Visit a local animal shelter to find out about pet adoption.
2. Research to learn more about pet care and responsibility.
3. Read about different pet breeds to find the perfect match for you.
4. Contact a local veterinarian to learn about pet needs and costs.
5. Be responsible and have your pet spayed or neutered.

Draw a picture to show how you take care of your pet.

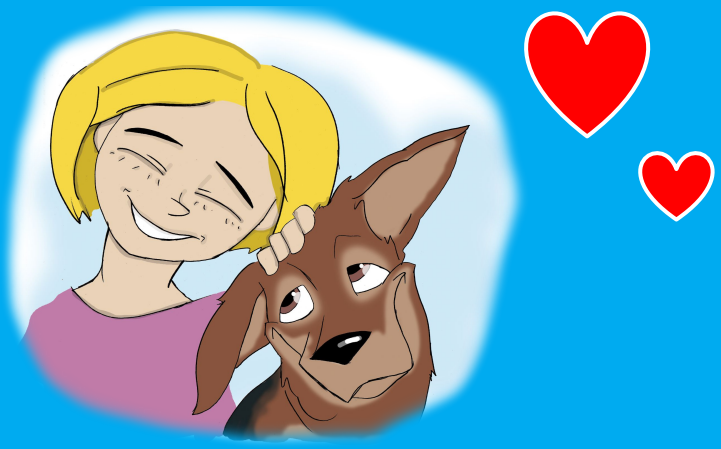
Rescue Pup

A special dog, a big adventure, a happy ending!

Buddy is abandoned in an empty house and breaks free, only to be faced with many dangers on his own. He eventually finds himself in an overcrowded shelter where he fears he will never be noticed and adopted. Read to find out what happens to Buddy and discover that he has feelings just like us!

This touching story is cleverly crafted in rhyming verse which makes it fun for children and adults alike to read, yet gently teaches about the serious topic of homeless animals and the need to be responsible, caring, and loving guardians.

While Nathan Behmlander fills every page with expressive illustrations that will be sure to tug at your heart strings from beginning to end, it is a story worth reading time and again. One little book, so many lessons!



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